

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 06661 021644Z  
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 06661

EXDIS

TO THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS  
SUBJECT: THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

1. SINCE THE MEXICAN DELEGATION IS PLAYING A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL PRIOR TO YOUR TRIP TO MEXICO IF I WERE TO GIVE YOU SOME IMPRESSIONS OF WHERE I THINK WE ARE AT THIS POINT. WITH ONLY THREE WEEKS TO GO, THE OUTCOME OF THIS SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE IS STILL HANGING IN THE BALANCE. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT WE COULD HAVE A VERY CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS BUT THIS WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON WHETHER DELEGATIONS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THE KINDS OF COMPROMISES THEY HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO PRODUCE A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TREATY. THE ATMOSPHERE IS ONE OF CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL AND SERIOUSNESS DESPITE THE EARLIER CONFRONTATION OVER WHETHER PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE SHOULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE. UNPRECEDENTED ACTIVITY IS NOW GOING ON. ALL OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES ARE BEING ADDRESSED SERIOUSLY. A MOVE TO COMPROMISE ON A RANGE OF ISSUES COULD COME VERY QUICKLY AND WE WILL BE ALERT TO HELPING THAT PROCESS ALONG. THE GROUP OF 77 HAS GENERALLY DISPLAYED GREATER

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MODERATION THAN FOR SOME TIME. THE MOST MILITANT IDEOLOGUES HAVE GONE AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GROUP SEEMS TO BE IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE OF MORE MEASURED VIEWS.

2. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THE MEXICAN DELEGATION UNDER AMBASSADOR CASTANEDA HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE PART. THEY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN THE GROUP OF 77

ON SEABEDS ISSUES ON WHICH A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT TEXTUAL CHANGES HAVE BEEN PROPOSED WHICH COME CONSIDERABLY CLOSER TO OUR OWN POSITIONS. THEY HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN TRYING TO FIND COMPROMISES ON PROVISIONS DEALING WITH ACTIVITIES IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE.

3. THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC LOS ISSUES I WOULD SUGGEST YOU RAISE IN MEXICO, PARTICULARLY SINCE I AM SURE YOU HAVE A GOOD DEAL OF OTHER PRESSING MATTERS ON YOUR AGENDA, BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FROM MY PERSPECTIVE IF YOU WERE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING GENERAL POINTS AT AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY.

-- THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE MAY BE CLOSE TO THE POINT WHERE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES CAN BE FOUND ON THE MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THE UNITED STATES VERY MUCH HOPES THAT THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE AND WILL LEAD AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE CONCLUSION OF A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.

-- AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION GREATLY APPRECIATE THE COOPERATION THEY HAVE ENJOYED WITH THE MEXICAN DELEGATION UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF AMBASSADOR CASTANEDA.

-- WE HOPE THAT THE MEXICAN DELEGATION WILL CONTINUE TO  
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PLAY A MODERATE ROLE IN THE GROUP OF 77 ON SEABEDS ISSUES SO THAT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME CAN BE ACHIEVED.

-- WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED BY THE EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR CASTANEDA TO FIND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES ON THE RANGE OF ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. SR. VALLARTA HAS ABLY CHAIRED THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ISSUES WHICH ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. I HOPE YOU WILL HAVE A GOOD TRIP TO MEXICO. WITH WARM REGARD, ELLIOT. RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

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